

Appendix B: Glossary

APPENDIX B

Glossary

Term	Meaning
100-year floodplain	An area of land that would be inundated by a flood having a one-percent chance of occurring in any given year.
air pollutant	Any substance in air that could, in high enough concentration, harm people, other animals, vegetation, or material. Pollutants may include almost any natural or artificial composition of airborne matter. They may be in the form of solid particles, liquid droplets, gases, or a combination thereof. Generally, they fall into two main groups: (1) those emitted directly from identifiable sources and (2) those produced in the air by interaction between two or more primary pollutants, or by reaction with normal atmospheric constituents, with or without the aid of sunlight.
basin	An area of land that drains to a specific water body.
best management practices (BMPs)	BMPs are innovative and improved environmental protection tools and methods that have been determined to be the most effective, practical means of avoiding or reducing environmental impacts. Physical, structural, and/or managerial practices that, when used singly or in combination, prevent or reduce pollutant discharges.
carbon dioxide	A colorless, odorless, atmospheric gas made up of one carbon and two oxygen atoms. It is present in the Earth's atmosphere in low concentrations and is sometimes referred to as a greenhouse gas because it contributes to global warming.
carbon monoxide	A colorless, odorless, toxic gas produced by incomplete combustion.
cross-culvert	A pipe designed to carry drainage under a roadway.
culvert	A pipe or structure that drains open channels, swales, or ditches under a roadway or embankment. Typically, a culvert is not connected to a catch basin or manhole along its length.
design storm	A rainfall event of specific size and frequency that is used to calculate the runoff volume and peak discharge rate to a stormwater facility.

Term	Meaning
detention	The temporary storage of stormwater runoff in a stormwater facility that is done to control the discharge rates and provide gravity.
detention pond	A catchment designed to mitigate stormwater runoff quality and/or quantity impacts by storing the increased runoff volume that results from development, then slowly releasing it at controlled runoff rates. Detention tanks and vaults are underground structures used to reduce peak stormwater flows.
discharge	Runoff leaving an area via overland flow, built conveyance systems, or infiltration facilities; a hydraulic rate of flow, specifically fluid flow; a volume of fluid passing a point per unit of time.
displacement	The act of removing a business, residence, or public facility from its existing location. In the context of transportation improvements, displacement is generally the result of (1) property acquisition for right of way expansion or (2) elimination of access to a property due to traffic revisions.
ecology embankment	A stormwater treatment facility constructed in the pervious shoulder area of a highway, consisting of a vegetation-covered French drain containing filter media.
encroachment	Any action, including the placement of fill and scour countermeasures, and the construction of piers and bridge abutments, that will occur within the limits of the regulatory floodplain.
endangered species	Any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a substantial portion of its range.
floodplain	The total area subject to inundation by a flood, including the flood fringe and floodway.
habitat	The environment or specific surroundings where a plant or animal grows or lives. The surroundings include physical factors such as temperature, moisture, and light, together with biological factors such as the presence of food or predator organisms.
hazardous air pollutants	Air pollutants which are not covered by ambient air quality standards but which, as defined in the Clean Air Act, may reasonably be expected to cause or contribute to irreversible illness or death. Such pollutants include asbestos, beryllium, mercury, benzene, coke oven emissions, radionuclides, and vinyl chloride.

Term	Meaning
infiltration	The downward movement of water from the surface to the subsoil.
large woody debris	Woody vegetation (e.g., trees or tree parts) that is wholly or partially waterward of the ordinary high water line. To qualify as large woody debris, it must be of sufficient size to be resistant to erosion, provide bank stability, or help maintain or create habitat features important to fish life (greater than 15 centimeters [5.9 inches] in diameter and 2 meters [6.6 feet] long).
listed species	Any species of fish, wildlife, or plant that has been determined to be endangered or threatened under Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
mitigation	Measures taken to reduce or avoid adverse effects to the environment.
ordinary high water mark	The ordinary high water mark (OHWM) is the point on the bank or shore to which water, by its presence and action and flow, leaves a distinct mark indicated by erosion, destruction of or change in vegetation or other easily recognizable characteristic.
ozone (O ₃)	Ozone is a natural form of oxygen that provides a protective layer shielding the earth from ultraviolet radiation. Ozone in the troposphere is produced through complex chemical reactions that involve: nitrogen oxides, which are among the primary pollutants emitted by combustion sources; hydrocarbons, released into the atmosphere through the combustion, handling and processing of petroleum products; and sunlight. Ozone is a chemical oxidant and major component of photochemical smog. It can seriously impair the respiratory system and is one of the most widespread of all the criteria pollutants for which the Clean Air Act required the EPA to set standards.
outfall	Point of discharge for stormwater runoff; also the end of a culvert or pipe that discharges stormwater runoff.
outwash	Usually stratified sediment deposited by glacial meltwaters in front of or beyond the limits of an active glacier.
particulate	A very small solid, suspended in air or water, which can vary widely in size, shape, density, and electrical charge.

Term	Meaning
PM ₁₀	A standard for measuring the amount of solid or liquid matter suspended in the atmosphere, i.e., the amount of particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter; smaller PM ₁₀ particles penetrate to the deeper portions of the lung, affecting sensitive population groups such as individuals with respiratory ailments and children.
recharge	Water, whether precipitation, surface water or groundwater, that will enter and add to the change in level of an aquifer.
restoration	To improve a disturbed or altered wetland by returning wetland parameters that may be missing.
right of way	Land purchased prior to the construction of new highway improvements along with land for building sound walls, retaining walls, and other project features. Vacant land may also be set aside for future highway expansion under certain circumstances.
riparian	Land that occurs along or interacts with flowing water.
runoff	Rainwater or snowmelt that directly leaves an area as a surface drainage.
smog	Dust, smoke, or chemical fumes that pollute the air and make hazy, unhealthy conditions. Automobile, truck, bus, and other vehicle exhausts and particulates are usually trapped close to the ground, obscuring visibility and contributing to a number of respiratory problems. See also ozone.
stormwater	The portion of precipitation that does not naturally percolate into the ground or evaporate, but flows via overland flow, interflow, pipes, and other features of a drainage system into a defined surface water body or treatment facility.
threatened species	Any species that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a substantial portion of its range.
vault	Underground storage facilities that treat stormwater. Dry vaults provide stormwater quantity control by detaining runoff and then releasing reduced flows at established rates. Wet vaults are designed to treat stormwater for both quantity and quality by maintaining a permanent pool of water that acts as a settling basin.

Term	Meaning
wetland	<p>Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. Wetlands do not usually include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from non-wetland sites, including, but not limited to irrigation and drainage ditches, grass-lined swales, canals, detention facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, farm ponds, and landscape amenities. However, wetlands may include artificial wetlands intentionally created from non-wetland areas to mitigate conversion of wetlands, if permitted by the appropriate authority.</p>

